The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor sometimes in the editorial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1908 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMB... 4, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 44

17 New York Investment Banking Firms Charged With Monopolistic Practices

Washington, D. C.—In another action designed to stamp out the trend toward monopoly control by big business interests, the Justice Department charged that 17 New York investment bankers have a stranglehold on the nation's security business.

Attorney General Tom C. Clark announced that a suit had been instituted in the New York Federal Court charging the bankers with violations of the anti-trust laws in handling 30 percent of the stock and bonds issued during the last 9 years, and valued at $14 billion.

The Government asked for injunctions against the banking houses and their partners, and asked also that the Investment Bankers Association of America be broken up by court order.

The Government suit accused the bankers of conspiring to eliminate the stock and bond business by fixing the prices and terms of new issues, and by strangling competitive bidding.

The bankers were charged with conspiring not to contract with each other, to choke off competition from other investment bankers, to block sales to the highest bidder, to get around State and Federal regulations, to promote big stock and bond issues so they could make fees on their sale and to draw the business of buying and retailing stocks and bonds into a single market where they had an advantage over others.

The court was asked to break up the alleged monopoly by ordering the bankers to decide whether they would advise a company they worked to issue stocks and bonds, or would handle the issue, by ordering several groups of banking houses to stop forming pools to handle security issues jointly, by ordering the bankers not to place their officers and agents on the boards of directors of companies for which they handled securities and by ordering the bankers not to make agreements to kill competition.

Doherty Urges Increase In Retirement Annuities

Washington, D. C.—William C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers and an AFL Executive Council member, called upon Congress for the prompt revision of the Federal Retirement Law to provide higher annuity payments for retired employes.

In an editorial in the November issue of the association's journal, The Postal Record, Doherty protested the "sinking indifference" shown by Congress in return for the voluntary relinquishment by the letter carriers of their right to strike or to engage in collective bargaining procedures.

Mr. Doherty stated that the retirement law, as amended from time to time, is a good law "standing alone" but under the law as it stands today simply will not permit retired letter carriers to do much more than exist."

"The Langer-Chaves bills, introduced in the first session of the 80th Congress, would have given a substantial boost to retirement pay. Simple justice demanded that a liberalized retirement bill be enacted. It is needless to point out at this time that letter carriers are still waiting for the passage of such a bill.

"It is now the question of living against our Government; we have never entertained the idea. Moreover, we never will. So far, so good. But why in the name of social justice and fair play, must our retired employes be forced to struggle on through the sunset of their lives on a meager inadequate annuity? The 'cold war' is on record as the cause for the right to strike or engage in collective bargaining is denied to a large segment of the American people.

"Failure to put this right is the cause of the acts of men and women, Americans, to become leaders."

If there is another depression like that of the '30's, Hoffman warned, we will have to "American system" goodbye. The country simply could not stand it, he said.

Hoffman insisted there is "no excuse for wasting booms and busts" in our economy. As a means of avoiding them, he advocated the maintenance of adequate purchasing power in the hands of the masses of our people, for business, he declared, cannot hope to prosper unless the people have the means with which to buy the things they need to provide a comfortable existence.

Before the annual meeting of the Controllers' Institute of America in Chicago, A. Frank Ehrnicke, economist and former Government official, expressed similar views.

Citing the recent change in the Postal Laws and Regulations incorporating the Taft-Hartley law's ban against strikes by Government employes, Mr. Doherty explained that the Letter Carriers Association was "willingly forfeited that 'right' long before any lawmaker reduced a prohibition against it to writing."

"We have always believed that when a person enters the Postal Service, just as when he enters the Army or Navy of the United States, he should acknowledge no allegiance to any other power or outside authority that was greater than and above the United States. It was the very inception of the NALC in 1889 that policy has been subscribed to; during the course of the years it has repeatedly reaffirmed it and henewith affirm it to be the existing policy of the National Association of Letter Carriers."

380 Unions Cooperating In Setting Up New Apprentice Training Programs

Washington, D. C.—Over 380 unions are cooperating with contractors in the establishment of apprentice training programs for brickmasons, Earl A. Shipley, president of the Structural Clay Products Institute, stated. The institute is a national association of brick and tile manufacturers.

"The number of apprentices registered in the training programs has passed 8500," Shipley said.

"In Ohio alone, 732 employers and 44 local unions are cooperating in providing training for 1056 apprentices. In Michigan, which ranks second in the number of employers and unions, there are 514 employers, 34 unions and 472 apprentices. Pennsylvania reports 374 employers and 20 local unions, with a total of 621 apprentices.

"Joint apprenticeship committees have been formed in all but 10 States, and 25 States have 100 or more apprentices in training.

"The 10 to 20 percent gain in contractors' volume reported for this year by the United States Department of Commerce will mean a substantial increase in the amount of training required in the trade. There is a continued expansion in the mason contractor industry.

"It is estimated that fully 400 local communities in which apprentice mason programs have been established have had gains in wages of skilled workers within the next year or so that training will be needed.

"The large backlog of housing and other construction projects awaiting employment opportunities for a reasonable period, the establishment of jobs in bricklaying and other building trades during the winter months in all sections of the country.

"The Joint Apprentice Training Service is assisting the effective operation of the program by manufacturers and labor unions to provide training for new workers."

IBEW LOCAL WILL VOTE ON DUES REDUCTION PLAN

New York City.—Local 3 of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers announced that its membership will be asked to vote on a proposal to reduce the amount of union dues at a forthcoming meeting.

Because of the healthy state of the union's finances, the officers decided to recommend a reduction from $42 to $36 in the semiannual dues for the local's 6,500 Class A members.

The union also announced that it had concluded an agreement with the New York Electrical Contractors' association liberalizing pension and health insurance benefits for its members. Children, as well as wives of members, will receive hospital care under the new program.

AFL VOTERS LEAGUE HOPES TO RAISE $100,000 CHEST

San Diego, Calif.—The newly created AFL Voters League of this city has given notice that it means business in the defeat in 1948 of "Congressional enemies of labor."

The league has started raising a $100,000 war chest through contributions from the 25,000 members of the local AFL unions. Half the sum is collected will go to the state AFL to assist its statewide political program.

MINERS' AVERAGE PAY SETS RECORD IN AUGUST

Washington, D. C.—Reflecting new contract gains, average hourly earnings of bituminous coal workers in August were $1.778, a rise of almost 20 percent over June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Weekly earnings, at the record average of $71.12, reflected a gain of $6.65 per week.

Hourly earnings in anthracite mining also increased 8 percent over the period. Weekly earnings were about $4 above June.

The bureau's revised figures for the bituminous coal industry production workers earned an average of 40.0 hours in the second week of August. This is practically unchanged from July.

JOB OPENINGS INCREASE

New York City.—An increase in the number of job openings in New York State for the month of September was reported by Edward Corsi, State Industrial Commissioner.

Mr. Corsi said an 18 percent increase in calls by employers for workers and a 10 percent drop in the number of job seekers applying in the New York State Employment Service were favorable symptoms of the employment situation during the month as compared with the situation existing in August.

Cost Of Living Held Added Strain On Family Problems

New York City.—The difficulty of making ends meet because of the soaring cost of living has added a further complicating factor in American family relationships, already elevated because of wartime conditions, the Family Service Association reported.

In a survey of 114 family service agencies in American cities, all affiliated with the FSAA, 96 have noted that mounting living costs had increased the number of problems families have brought to the agencies in recent months.

In discussing the report, Frank J. Hertel, general director of the FSAA, said that the current abnormal economic situation is causing not only short-term family problems but is sowing seeds for the future, since "children growing up in an atmosphere of frustration and uncertainty in one generation tend to carry over the same instability of home life in the next."

Marginal income families are the most affected, but the report noted that many higher-income families for the first time are seeking social assistance. Among the difficulties noted are inability to pay for needed medical care, improper diet, increase in the number of women forced to the work and inability to pay for proper day care for children of working mothers. Inadequate housing is another factor related to help support families, exhaustion of savings and mounting debts.

High Price Policy of Business Seen Paving Way for Fatal 'Bust' In Economy

New York City.—A prominent business leader and former Labor Department statistician added their voices to warnings previously heard in American business leadership that high prices must end to prevent another depression.

Paul G. Hoffman, president of the Studebaker Corporation, in an address before the Herald - Tribune Forum here declared that, "if we have a disastrous depression, it will not be because of an act of God or a conviction of sin. It will be the cause of the acts of men and women, Americans, in business leaders."

Hoffman insisted there is "no excuse for wasting booms and busts" in our economy. As a means of avoiding them, he advocated the maintenance of adequate purchasing power in the hands of the masses of our people, for business, he declared, cannot hope to prosper unless the people have the means with which to buy the things they need to provide a comfortable existence.

Before the annual meeting of the Controllers' Institute of America in Chicago, A. Frank Ehrnicke, economist and former Government official, expressed similar views.

The greatest peril menacing the country is that labor and far too many management is solely responsible, Ehrnicke declared.

"Two facts stand out," Henrichs declared. "The first is that labor has been passed on to the consumer with full profit added. The second, I cannot draw any other conclusion from profit-and-loss statements. The second fact is drawn from economic history—this high level of production cannot be because of an act of God or a conviction of sin. It will be the cause of the acts of men and women, Americans, in business leaders."

Hoffman insisted there is "no excuse for wasting booms and busts" in our economy. As a means of avoiding them, he advocated the maintenance of adequate purchasing power in the hands of the masses of our people, for business, he declared, cannot hope to prosper unless the people have the means with which to buy the things they need to provide a comfortable existence.

Before the annual meeting of the Controllers' Institute of America in Chicago, A. Frank Ehrnicke, economist and former Government official, expressed similar views.

Ehrnicke, in a no less startling revelation for some leaders in the business field, declared that industry is responsible its responsibility to provide a decent standard of living for American workers. In his book "Or Forced Free?" he called for the establishment of a 90-cent minimum hourly wage.

Washburn Blasts Employer Violations of Child Labor, Minimum Wage, Hour Laws

Milwaukee.—Lester Washburn, International Representative of the United Auto Workers, on the basis of a recent report made public by William R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, which contracts Divisions of the U. S., lashed out at the record number of violations by management of existing labor laws.

Washburn, asking that immediate remedial steps be taken by labor and government to stop "the appalling upward trend" of violations by companies seeking prosperity privileges for workers in the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Public Contracts Act, the Wage and Hour, Child Labor, Minimum Wage and Hour standards, figures in McComb's report that the $18,000,000 in wages had been illegally withheld by management from 1,125 employers.

More than half of the 40,350 or 7 percent of the covered establishments in the United States inspected during the year ending June 30 were found by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions to have been in violation of the minimum wage, industrial home and child labor provisions, Washburn pointed out in reading from the recent survey report.

Failure to pay the minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was characterized as "intolerable practice under the present high cost of living." Yet, he said, failure to pay the minimum wage was involved in the cases of 2700 employers hiring 37,000 workers, the McComb report showed.

Violations of the child labor provisions of the Public Contract Act were found in 185 establishments, Washburn said the McComb report showed, with substantial violations of the recordkeeping regulations of the Fair Labor Standards Act uncovered in 14,000 companies.

Labor Press Hailed As Key Agency In Job of Keeping Union Members Informed

Philadelphia.—The labor press is the logical vehicle for the dissemination to union members of educational and informational material on political matters, according to Arthur J. McDowell, director of organization for the AFL's Upholsterers' International Union.

In an article appearing in the UIU Journal, McDowell outlined the intensified activity to rid the labor movement of Communists and laid down a three-point program designed to "permanently rout the Communist political life for the better." He said:

"Our first job is to inform our members now, in unmistakable terms, make that flow of information constant and reliable. That means educating all officers and agents on the first line.

"Our second job is to organize our members as citizens in their unions and their communities.

"Our third job is to bring to a join the liberal elements to be found in the political parties and in every community and build for the perpetuation of democracy and the democratic Republic.

"This can be done through building a larger society of farmers and workers and by the labor movement presently transform our American political life. This is the only answer to such a limited objective as removal of the Communist Party and their kind from public life."

AFL RETAIL FOOD CLERKS RATIFY NEW AGREEMENT

Los Angeles, Calif.—Food market workers of Local 770, Retail Clerks International Association (AFL) approved a new 20-month contract here providing pay raises of $2.50 a week and an additional 50 cents weekly each time the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cost-of-living index goes up one point.

The new contract, which will increase members' purchasing power by $1,200,000 annually, covers 10,000 of the local's 18,000 membership. The new pact will run until September 1949.

STRIKERS WILL RECEIVE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Phoenix, Ariz.—The right of strikers in Arizona to unemployment compensation was upheld unanimously by the State Supreme Court here. The ruling involved employes of the Hotel Westward Ho, the city's largest hotel.

Claims for unemployment pay, filed through the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance (AFL), were originally denied by the employment security commission. The commission's decision was reversed in superior court and finally by the supreme court.

Woll Objects To Tax Report; Asks Relief For Low Incomes

Green Lauds U. S. Workers' Freedom In Broadcast Beamed to Soviet Russia

New York City.—AFL President William Green, in a prepared broadcast for use on the State Department's "Voice of America" program beamed to Russia, emphasized the freedom enjoyed by American workers in political matters, in the selection of their representatives, in the determination of their nation's policies.

The program consisted of a series of questions put to Mr. Green which brought out the basic difference between the labor movement under a democratic government and under a totalitarian regime. For purposes of the broadcast, the Nazi system was chosen as an example of the totalitarian form of government.

On the general question of the basic difference between a democratic labor organization and the totalitarian labor movement, Mr. Green said:

"Basically the difference was between freedom and slavery. A democratic labor organization like the American Federation of Labor is free to formulate its policies, determined by the members themselves and its activities are carried on by union officials elected by the members. Conversely in a fully completely free of Government domination and control. Established and supposed to Government labor policies there is no opportunity to express our opposition.

"Now contrast this free system with the adverse conditions which Hitler imposed upon German labor. The Nazis formed the labor unions of the Reich, confiscating their funds and appointing their officers. Then he organized a labor front, which the government compelled workers to join. These workers had no voice in selecting the officers or leaders of labor nor did they have any say over such fundamentals as wages and working conditions."

In reply to a question on political matters and the freedom of workers to express themselves and exercise their right to vote, Mr. Green stated the AFL's non-partisan political policy. He said:

"In our country the unions are free to support whatever party they favor and of course all union members enjoy the same freedom.

"The American Federation of Labor itself has consistent, followed a nonpartisan political policy and has refrained from giving a blanket endorsement to any political party. Instead we have supported candidates from both major political parties whose records convince us that they are friendly to the cause of organized labor. Nor do our unions attempt to influence their members to support any candidate of any political party.

"We have confidence in the good sense and good judgment of our members and we believe that when all the facts are made clear to them they are perfectly capable of judging for themselves whom to support and whom to oppose in the political elections.

"The political conditions to which you refer in Germany were forced to submit under the Nazi regime would be intolerable to American workers. The Germans were never had the option to vote "no." The Nazis formed the only party the affair they seized power—their party. They compelled the people to oppose it except at the risk of his life."

Totalitarian governments, Green said, "are the enemies of free trade unions and of free collective bargaining as it does on force rather than voluntary support of the people. They do not dare to permit the existence of opposition nor the expression of criticism.

"These are some of the reasons why the free workers of America will never accept any totalitarianism except any form of totalitarianism."

Taft-Hartley Law's Restrictions Held Evidence of Movement to Wreck Labor

Albany, N. Y.—Harold C. Hanover, secretary-treasurer of the New York State Federation of Labor, charged in that enactment of the Taft-Hartley law is the controlling purpose that there is under way in this country a powerful, well-organized and well-financed movement to destroy the institution of collective bargaining.

Mr. Hanover spoke before the Social Missions Conference of the Episcopal Diocese of the United Lutheran Synod of New York on the general theme "Christianity and Industry in the Church."

As examples of the evidence of the anti-labor campaign, Hanover referred to the Government's case in dealing with strikes and the closed shop. The Government, he declared the law takes the first step to outlaw the closed shop and all strikes on the part of labor. He said:

"Under the Taft-Hartley Government agency is authorized to declare that any projected strike is threatening to the public interest and welfare and upon such declaration the strike is outlawed and ask an injunction to prevent the strike.

"It requires little imagination to realize how this vast power can be directly misused in the interest of those by the arbitrary determination that every strike threatens the public interest and welfare. This is not to say that every strike should be condoned. I am merely pointing out its potentialities.

"By reenacting the injunction, the first step has been taken to outlaw the right to strike. Abridge today, abolish tomorrow seems to be historic formula throughout history of those who mouthed freedom, but practiced tyranny."

Turning to the closed shop, Hanover denounced the propaganda which has branded it as "un-American and a denial of the individual's right to work." He likened the closed shop to practices in existence for professional men in the business world.

"Each of these has had special training for the work they do and recognizes that this training peculiarly fits the physician, lawyer, and clergyman for his work. It protects the public welfare, too, that the investment he has made to acquire this training be made by those professionally and ethically equipped, denied to all those unethical except those who are qualified by training and met certain standards.

"The closed shop in plant or factory has the same purpose and protection of this same protection over the effort, sacrifice and investment of the worker.

"Before the Taft-Hartley law the first step has been taken to destroy this protection for the worker. Closed shop agreements have been outlawed and new ones are banned, except under certain conditions.

On the position of the church, Mr. Hanover declared:

"The church can and should actively interest itself in the welfare of the millions. It should familiarize itself with the economic background of labor's struggle for social and economic equity. It should make all attempts to destroy labor's gains as threats to contract with Caesar the result will be the encouragement and growth of Communism by the atheistic division they breed, the lower living standards they create for all.

"These attitudes, implemented by active witnesses, are what labor expects of the church."

CIVILIAN PAY RISE APPROVED BY NAVY

Washington, D. C.—The Navy approved wage increases of 14 to 17 cents an hour for civilian workers at the Navy's Norfolk, Philadelphia and similar raises will be given employes at other U. S. bases as soon as possible, it was disclosed.

Ultimately 15,000 civilian workers will receive raises.

The Navy said the West Coast increases, which were approved by Secretary of Navy John L. Sullivan, will become effective within 30 days. They will range from an hour to the basements an hour for the Alameda, Calif., area and 17 cents an hour in the San Francisco and Puget Sound-Seattle, Wash., areas.

30-HOUR WEEK PACT SIGNED

Louisville, Ky.—The first contract in this area to provide a 30-hour week has been signed between an AFL federal local of enamelers and the American Radiator Standard & Sanitary Co. Five hundred workers are covered.

CAMDEN AFL WORKERS TO GET 5-CENT HOURLY BOOST

Philadelphia, Pa.—Some 500 employes of the R. M. Hollingshead Corp. plant in Camden have been awarded an increase in wages of 5 cents-an-hour across the board and a new four-cent-an-hour boosting for an opening of wage and vacation discussions on Aug. 15, 1948. The wage increase was retroactive to Oct. 15, 1946, by contract with Local 22130, Automotive Chemical Products Union of the AFL.

SECRETARY OF TREASURY PRAISES AFL THRIFT PLAN

Washington, D. C.—In a recent statement, John Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury, said the AFL Security Thrift Program sets "an example for the Nation" and praised the AFL plan of urging their members to buy U. S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction as a curb on inflation.

COURT RULES LIQUOR SHUTDOWN IS INVALID

Louisville, Ky.—The Citizens' Food Committee of Louisville urged the city to order a halt in the production of whisky, a Louisville court ruled.

Judge W. Scott Miller ordered a distillery to resume production and to fulfill its contracts to sales companies.

The decision will be final unless the government, without law, can "impair" a contract during a national emergency.

Seven representing distillery workers plan to challenge the two-months shutdown order, which they obtain satisfactory adjustments for lost wages. They claim that more than 40,000 have been made idle by the closing of the plants.

NAMED RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Cincinnati, Ohio.—Robert L. Davis, recently director of research for the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks (AFL) has been named head of the research and education department of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union (AFL).

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

GIVE NOW To Your Community Chest

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Woll Says Small Taxpayer Not Helped By Good Intentions of Tax Committee

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, Chairman of the AFL's Committee on Taxation and a member of the Executive Tax Study Committee appointed by Representative Knutson, expressed gratification at the concern shown by the majority of the committee for the welfare of the small taxpayer.

Mr. Woll also filed a minority report dissenting from the conclusions reached by the committee, declared, however, that the majority report should be judged by its specific recommendations, rather than by pious statements of good intentions.

"If the major concern of the majority of the committee is to relieve the small taxpayer, then the majority recommendations can only be termed an insult to our intelligence," Mr. Woll said.

"Their report is based on the assumption that the across-the-board tax cuts of four billion dollars, as proposed by Representative Knutson, will be made. The majority is aware that these reductions will only partially ease the tax load of middle-class taxpayers at below subsistence income levels.

"On the other hand, upper bracket taxpayers would be relieved of a substantial portion of their tax bill. Knowing this, the majority make specific recommendations in their report for further tax changes that will involve the loss of additional billions of dollars which will accrue as tax-cut savings to these same upper bracket income taxpayers."

Mr. Woll charged that the Knutson proposal, plus the specific tax revisions favored by a majority of the committee, would involve a total revenue loss to the federal government of six to seven billion dollars.

"I submit that such a proposal is fundamentally unsound in that it disregards our Federal revenue and expenditure requirements under the Marshall Plan," Mr. Woll declared.

"Furthermore, this proposal would result in shifting a greater share of the tax burden from the upper brackets to those less able to bear the tax load. Such a program is not only inequitable, but dangerous to the economy.

"Finally," declared Mr. Woll, "the proof of the utter insincerity of the majority's professed interest in their low income groups is found in their recommendation that excise taxes be increased and extended. Obviously, they hope to collect additional revenue either through taxes on luxuries or through taxes on necessities in common use.

"Taxes on luxuries rarely yield any considerable revenue and frequently do not even cover the cost of collecting consumption. Taxes on necessities, on the other hand, exploit additional revenue but would cut into the consumption of food and living standards of the low income groups.

"Anyone interested in tax equity or our social and economic welfare," Mr. Woll concluded, "should be amused or outraged at Mr. Magill's attempt to confuse the issue of excise taxes on consumers, while expressing concern for the small taxpayer."

Rent Control To Continue In 32 Defense-Rental Areas

Washington, D. C.—Housing Expediter Frank R. Creedon approved continuation of rent controls in 20 defense-rental areas, making a total of 32 areas in which controls are to be maintained.

Eight actions have been taken on recommendations to decontrol areas or parts of areas with the Housing Expediter approving decontrol in five instances.

With respect to recommendations for increases in rents, official sanction has been given in two cases while three such requests have been disallowed.

All of these actions by the Housing Expediter were in response to recommendations of local Rent Advisory Boards which are provided for under the Housing and Rent Act of 1947.

Mr. Creedon approved decontrol of the San Angelo, Texas, Defense-Rental Area covering Tom Green County, where vacancies in rental housing have reached adequate proportions as a result of large installations in the area. This decontrol takes effect November 15.

Saunders County, Nebraska, was removed from control as of October 31. This is an agricultural area which had experienced a wartime housing shortage at the time an order was issued for evacuation.

Rent control is being continued in the Alexandria-Leesville, Louisiana, area with the exception of rooming houses and sleeping rooms in private homes. The expediter approved removal of these controls as of October 31 because of many reported vacancies in such accommodations.

Continuation of controls was approved by the Housing Expediter for the following 20 areas:

Tucson, Ariz.; New York; Akron, Ohio; Gary-Hammond, Ind.; South Bend, Ind.; La Porte-Michigan City, Ind.; Kent County, Mich.; Alexandria-Arlington, Va.; Bellingham, Wash.; Charleston, W. Va.; Clarksville, N. C.; Charleston, S. C.; Columbia, Mo.; Little Rock, Ark.; Fayetteville (Ga.); Mandevi-Durango, Colo.; International Falls, Minn.; Phoenix-Salt River Valley, Ariz.; Yuma, Ariz.; Pullman (Wash.)-Moscow (Idaho); the Island of Puerto Rico.

Court Denies NLRB Injunction Over Alleged Secondary Boycott By Union

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Efforts of the National Labor Relations Board to sustain charges of secondary boycotting and illegal picketing against a union fell flat when a Federal Court refused to grant an injunction requested by the NLRB.

The court denied the application for the injunction against the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, ruling that all of the alleged violations on the part of the union took place prior to the effective date of the Taft-Hartley law.

Judge Leslie R. Darr rejected the NLRB's contention that the carpenters union's actions took place the day before the statute became effective, so they still constitute a violation because they were "continuing offenses" and future unlawful conduct could be expected.

The Judge held that since the acts of the union were lawful at the time they took place, there could be no inference drawn that such facts would indicate unlawful conduct in the future.

The court did not rule on motions made by the union's attorneys to dismiss the application suit on the ground that the Taft-Hartley law was unconstitutional.

The case took on special significance since the court's ruling was made on the same set of facts presented before an NLRB trial examiner conducting hearings on the charge that the carpenters union was guilty of an unfair labor practice. Under the Taft-Hartley law it was mandatory for the NLRB to request the Federal District Court to enjoin the union pending processing of the unfair labor practice case.

The NLRB charged that last February the union demanded a closed-shop contract with Watson's Specialty Store in this city. The store refused to sign the contract and 12 employees were union members.

Following which the store was picketed until Aug. 20, eight days after the Taft-Hartley law went into effect. The NLRB said that such picketing, when there was no labor dispute, was an attempt to coerce the store employees into joining the union.

On Aug. 21, the carpenters refused to continue work on a house when the employer refused to recognize and accept arrived to install floor covering. The walkout was a protest against the store, the NLRB said, and was a violation of the union's no-strike clause in its action gave the walkout a "coating of effect."

Kentucky Election Hailed As A Great Victory For Labor

Taft-Hartley Backer Soundly Whipped By 3-to-1 Majority

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green hailed the results of the recent gubernatorial election in Kentucky as a clear-cut victory for labor over the supporters of the Taft-Hartley law.

In a statement commenting upon the election results, Mr. Green said:

"In the election, the Taft-Hartley law was subjected to its first test as an issue.

"In Kentucky, the Republican candidate for Governor, Willis S. Dunn, made the Taft-Hartley law his chief battle cry and campaign issue for election on the ground that his Democratic opponent, Representative Earle C. Clements, had voted in Congress to override President Truman's veto of that law.

"Faced with this challenge, the Kentucky State Federation of Labor mobilized the facts in the workers of Kentucky and made special efforts to register for the election in election day. The result was the overwhelming defeat of the proponent of the Taft-Hartley law and the election of Rep. Clements by an estimated three to one margin.

"This is exactly what the American Federation of Labor is determined to do to the national scale in the 1948 elections and we hail the results in Kentucky as a happy augury of the success of our efforts.

"The defeat of Taft, upsharply for his own political preferment, and the defeat of 15 that the outcome in Kentucky would be visited in large degree upon party will elect a President in 1948."

Backing up Mr. Green with an emphatic statement, Edward H. Weyler, secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, said the activities of the AFL units in Kentucky which helped get out the vote to roll up the 80,000 majority serving "to explode the theory that the public desired restrictive labor legislation.

"In the city of Louisville, consisted in advance to be a weak spot for the Democrats, Mr. Weyler said the work of the AFL's unions there resulted in a Democratic victory by a majority of nearly 8,000. He continued:

"In the coal fields of Kentucky, in many districts traditionally Republican, the AFL-supported Democratic candidates had a majority. In fact, our candidate for governor carried his opponent's county by more than 300 majority.

"All of which, in my opinion, proves profoundly that the citizens of Kentucky, industrial, agricultural, and small business, want and intend to have progressive government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

"This election surely is a criteria of the 1948 election. It will be claimed in the 1948 election which will free the nation from reactionary leadership."

Other election contests throughout the nation, the AFL secured additional victories. In Detroit, Edward J. Jeffries was defeated for reelection as mayor, when the AFL-backed candidate, Eugene Van Antwerp, defeated Jeffries in three earlier mayoralty contests. The CIO supported Jeffries, given this year for the first time, substantial assistance and insisted the AFL's announced intention to work for his defeat.

In Philadelphia, the AFL-supported candidate for reelection, proving once again the ineffectiveness of the CIO, which endorsed against him.

Green, Meany File Required Affidavits To Get Federal Labor Unions to NLRB

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green and George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, filed non-Communist affidavits with the National Labor Relations Board as required by the Taft-Hartley law.

This action by the two officers of the AFL paved the way for the Federal Labor Unions, which are affiliated directly with the AFL, to use the services of the NLRB provided their union officers have filed similar affidavits.

The NLRB announced that as of the close of October, the deadline for union officers to submit sworn statements that they are not Communists, a total of 19,206 affidavits was on file.

Failure to file by October 31, the board previously declared, would result in the dismissal of all old cases pending before the board which had been filed prior to the effective date of the Taft-Hartley law. Carrying out its warning, the board announced that it would dismiss petitions of labor unions which failed to comply by the deadline date.

One of the cases dismissed involved the United Construction Workers, an affiliate of the AFL's United Mine Workers. Mr. John L. Lewis, UMW president, refused to sign the Communist disclaimer and became the only AFL union president to publicly state he would not submit the affidavit.

The requirement, as laid down by the NLRB, that union officers were to file the affidavits before the deadline date, applied only to those unions which had been operating before the Taft-Hartley law went into effect. For cases instituted since that time, the only requirement is that the affidavits must be presented to the NLRB before the cases can be processed.

The NLRB gave the following breakdown of the affidavits it had received as of the end of last month:

From AFL officers, 5,000; representing 1,035 local unions and 66 international unions.

From CIO officers, 608; representing 77 local unions and 14 internationals.

From independent unions, 5,878; representing 693 local unions and 30 internationals.

Government Contends NLRB Has Right To Reinstate Foremen Under New Law

Washington, D. C.—The Government has asked the Supreme Court that the Taft-Hartley law, which bans foremen from organizing and seeking to bargain, does not prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from ordering the reinstatement of two foremen.

The case involves the Vail Manufacturing Company, which has petitioned the court for a rehearing, claiming the new law excludes foremen from the definition of "employe" as found in the law.

In a memorandum filed by Philip B. Perlman, Solicitor General of the United States, it acknowledged this exclusion but contended it "does not deprive the board of power to order reinstatement of foremen."

In that case, the board's order of reinstatement "is not a remedy for any interference with the employer (company) with the efforts of its foremen organizations."

The two foremen involved had never been union members nor interested themselves in any way in union activities," it stated. "They were discharged for their refusal to participate in a fraudulent plan by which the employer sought to list them as nonsupervisory employes on an eligibility list and to have them vote against a union in an election which the board conducted among nonsupervisory employes.

"The board found that the petitioner, by attempting to persuade the foremen to engage in such unlawful conduct and by discharging them for their refusal, interfered with the rights guaranteed by Section 7 of the act, thereby committing an unfair labor practice within the meaning of Section 8 (1) of the act.

"The board found that the discharges would discourage membership in the union and membership in a union and for this reason were discriminatory within the meaning of Section 8 (3) of the act.

"The board's findings were based solely on the violation of the rights of nonsupervisory employes and its order was premised solely on the need to remedy such violations."

Health Insurance Extended to Families Of Members of AFL's Upholsterers Union

Philadelphia. — Hospital insurance was extended to the wives of members of the Upholsterers' International Union, AFL, and their children between the ages of three months and 18 years as an added benefit at contracts which more than 1200 firms.

Extension of the UIU Social Security Program, as the health and death insurance for covered members is called, provides for hospital benefits of $4 a day for a maximum of 31 days for each disability, up to 10 days for maternity cases.

A further expansion of the program was envisioned at headquarters of the union here by Frank J. Hoffmann, who praised the cooperation of employers in connection to the widening of benefits and of the membership in keeping down the loss ratio.

Under the program, employers contribute three percent of the wages paid to 1,775 insured employes, with no added charge being made for the increased benefits.

The plan, which the union seeks to extend to all firms under contract with it, provides for death benefits of $1,000 for anyone being put into effect and $1000 after one year.

All employes are automatically covered members receive 60 percent of their wages if they need hospitalization and hospital care also paid for.

The insurance plan, which is in effect in Philadelphia in May 1944, covers 12,000 employes and their families locally. Since then the casket, vanvas, and insurance related industries employing members of the union.

Navy Grants Pay Hike to Civilians

Washington, D. C. — Thirty-eight thousand more civilian employes of the Navy received wage increases ranging up to 15 percent, the Navy Department announced.

The new increases are effective in 30 days for employes in nine different areas throughout the nation.

This is the third in a series of increases granted the Navy since March 1946.

In New York City the increases average 10 percent, and range from 12 to 19 cents per hour for skilled workers. No dollar-and-cents figures were available for the other areas but percentages vary greatly.

Navy wage increases granted for other areas are as follows: Hampton Roads, Va., 8 percent (about 1,000 employes; Mechanicsburg, Pa., 10 percent for 8,271; Hawthorne, Nev., 7.9 percent for 1,000; Hitchcock, Tex., 15 percent; Detroit, 10 percent for 384; Orlando, Fla., 2 percent; Key West, Fla., 9.5 percent; York, Pa., 1,832 percent.

ILO's Far Eastern Conference Opens

New Delhi, India.—The first Far Eastern conference of the AFL-affiliated International Labor Organization opened here for a discussion of labor standards and social security questions affecting the Asian area.

Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India, in an address to the conference, declared that Asia would demand a greater share of world attention in the future than in the past.

Nehru announced that the newly-created state of Pakistan had been granted full membership in the ILO, bringing the total of member states to 33.

Jagjivan Ram, India's Minister of Labor, was elected president of the conference and a labor delegate from Pakistan was named vice president. Representative from Siam were chosen as vice-presidents. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lapeyre represented by Henry F. Grady, U. S. Ambassador to India, and Mr. and Mrs. Tyson, Solicitor of the Department of Labor.

MINERS IDLE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MITCHELL

Scranton, Pa.—Scores of mine workers here and for the annual tribute to John Mitchell, pioneer leader of the United Mine Workers at the monument on the courthouse square. During the ceremonies, which lasted 15 minute 76,000 miners remained idle.

While the tribute was primarily for Mitchell, Michael Scuik, president of District No. 1, delivered a brief eulogy to John J. O'Leary, international vice president and Carbondale, Pa., native, who died in San Francisco.

Floral wreaths were placed on Mitchell's monument and on his grave in the Mitchell Cemetery here by mine union leaders.

RAILWAY MAIL GROUP ELECTS NEGRO OFFICER

New York City—The New York branch of the Railway Mail Association (AFL) yesterday installed the first Negro officer in the history of the national union. Inducted as corresponding secretary was Emory L. Russell, formerly principal of Pickens County (Ga.) Industrial School.

Minnesota Commission Appointed To Study Displaced Persons Problem

St. Paul, Minn.—Governor Luther W. Youngdahl of Minnesota named a seven-man commission to study the resettlement in Minnesota of "some of the displaced persons of Europe who seek to come to this land."

Governor Youngdahl stated that so far as he is concerned he would be "happy to see" the 400,000 DP's now assembled "displaced persons" of Europe find their way to Minnesota, being confident that this state and the land thereof would be welcomed residents here.

However, the Governor said, "common reason and good sense dictate that we should proceed in an orderly manner and that only those who can better be invited until such time as a thorough study has been made of the state, representing church, labor, agriculture and business, has had opportunity to make a study of the situation."

Later, after Congress passes suitable legislation to make possible the entry of displaced persons, the Governor said the commission will study the problem of their reception and resettlement in detail.

Under the Stratton bill pending in Congress, 400,000 DP's would be permitted to enter the United States over a four-year period.

The American Federation of Labor urged the passage of the Stratton bill last year, but the anti-labor convention reiterated its stand in which it characterized the measure as "vicious."

LANDIS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNESCO CONFERENCE

Mexico City.—Joseph M. Landis, president of the American Federation of Labor United Labor advisor to the United States delegation attending the second general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization which opened here.

Mr. Landis succeeds Nelson Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities, who acted as labor advisor at the first general conference of UNESCO held last year in Paris.

Commenting upon Mr. Landis' appointment, AFL President William Green said that it was most appropriate for the head of the foremost voluntary organization of workers in America to participate in the conference which will consider the building world peace through cooperation between educators, scientists, and artists.

OCTOBER EMPLOYMENT SCORES NEW INCREASE

Washington, D. C. — Employment in October hit a new all-time high with the expiration of the summer months when the labor force was swollen with seasonal farm workers and vacationing students, the Census Bureau reported.

An estimated total of 59,250,000 persons were employed, the bureau said, with all of the increase over September being registered in nonagricultural industries.

At the same time, unemployment dropped by about 200,000 to the lowest point since November, 1945, 1,700,000. Agricultural employment was estimated at 8,600,000 in October, about the same as for the previous month.

Employment was said to have increased by 200,000 persons since the end of September.

The labor force in October remained at 60,900,000—about the same as in September, the bureau said.

'47 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT MILLION ABOVE PREWAR

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Office of Education announced that college and university enrollment in the fall of 1947 hit a new high level of nearly 2,300,000 students.

Figures on enrollment submitted by the nation's 1,776 institutions of higher learning showed the number of students to be approximately 1,000,000 above the peak prewar registration.

Dr. John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education, said, "The unprecedented number of veterans' enrollments, up 11 percent this fall over the fall of 1946, means that our colleges and universities are undergoing what is forward making up the national deficit in trained manpower caused by the drawing off of colleges and universities for military service."

Some of the largest enrollments reported are: New York University, 46,-312; Columbia University, 32,000; University of Minnesota, 28,312; Chicago University, 26,799; Ohio State University, 25,418; and Northwestern University, 24,284.

MARSHALL PLAN TO KEEP FARMERS BUSY 4 YEARS

Washington, D. C. — Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said that the Marshall Plan to aid Europe would keep U. S. farm production going at full blast for at least four more years.

ILP VOTES BAN ON USE OF FEDERATED PRESS

Washington, D. C.—The International Labor Press Association, at its convention in San Francisco voted not to use the Federated Press news service on the grounds that it is edited along the lines of the Communist Party policy.

The American Federation of Labor has long had the same view with regard to the Federated Press, we, therefore, urge all the loyal affiliated labor press not to subscribe to the Federated Press or use its services.

In an address to the AFL convention in San Francisco, Frank X. Martel, president of the Detroit and Wayne County Central Labor Union, denounced the Federated Press as Communistic-dinged.

Truman Urges Hiring of Handicapped; Committee Adopts Program for Drive

Washington, D. C.—President Truman stressed the need for stimulation of the employment of the nation's handicapped workers and declared their rehabilitation is "one of the most important things I can think of."

Mr. Truman made his statement to his committee on "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" which met at the White House and agreed upon the following 8-point program to spark the campaign:

(1) Management-labor institutes throughout the country to secure employer acceptance of handicapped workers, emphasize availability and advantages of Federal-States Employment Service facilities, prepare a typical "on-plant" plan for employing the disabled and secure increased employer interest for disabled and non-disabled alike;

(2) Investigation of and assistance to present and future community rehabilitation centers, formed to rehabilitate and employ the disabled at prevailing wages;

(3) Collaboration with Governors' committees in each State;

(4) Local, State and national essay contests in high schools on the dignity of students, parents and teachers;

(5) Publicity campaign on the handicapped at work "to arouse public interest and confidence" while encouraging employers to the "value and variety of talents possessed by handicapped workers;"

(6) Awarding of certificates of merit to individuals and organizations for their work in the employment of handicapped;

(7) Study of children's compensation laws, and

(8) Study of schools for handicapped in order that curricula might be revised immediately upon future employment possibilities.

Truman Names Kennedy To Succeed Schwellenbach

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has named Secretary of Labor Louis B. Schwellenbach to the Federal Court of Claims, it was announced by Attorney General Tom C. Clark.

Mr. Schwellenbach, who has been ill for several months, will succeed Judge Samuel Spencer Hoffman, who has retired from the court.

Mr. Schwellenbach was appointed Secretary of Labor by President Truman on June 23, 1945, succeeding Frances Perkins.

Truman Names Tobin To Succeed Schwellenbach

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has named Maurice J. Tobin, Governor of Massachusetts, to succeed Secretary of Labor Louis B. Schwellenbach, it was announced by Attorney General Tom C. Clark.

Governor Tobin, who has been a member of the Massachusetts Legislature since 1925, was elected Governor in 1944 and reelected in 1946.

HOTEL WORKERS UNION SETS UP ANTI-'RED' UNIT

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FEDERAL JOBS DECLINE AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

Washington, D. C.—Federal employment in the United States declined 16,995 persons to a total of 1,700,000 during the month of September.

Lower employment roles were reported by over half of the federal agencies. The Department of the Army was the only government agency to report any sizeable increase in its staff.

The downward trend during September was a continuation of a gradual drop in employment registered over the past 12 months. During that period federal payrolls have decreased by 352,333 employes.